

Fall 2013

Pipeline



Newsletter

For Customers of the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

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County Attorney

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Director

Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate on the basis of handicap.

It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For questions concerning your account, please contact:

Customer Service 305-665-7477
Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Internet: www.miamidade.gov/water

Government Cut Project Completed on time and within budget

The Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD) recently completed a complex \$77.5 million utility relocation project that increases both water and sewer capacity both on-time and within budget.

The project required relocation of an existing 20-inch water pipe and 54-inch sewer force main that ran under Government Cut as part of the PortMiami's Deep Dredge and Expansion Project. This is necessary in order to accommodate the new, larger Post-Panamax cargo vessels that require a deeper depth at the channel.

While the project was originally supposed to increase the depth of the pipes only at Government Cut, the department discovered that the sewer pipe was seriously deteriorated near Miami Beach. As a result, WASD increased the scope of the project to include replacing that portion of the pipe, as well. The existing pipes were replaced with larger pipes that will increase capacity for Miami Beach and other northern municipalities. The water pipe is now 24-inches and the sewer pipe was replaced with a 60-inch force main. The life expectancy of these new pipes is 80 years. This project is the first to be completed under the federal and state Consent Decree to upgrade the County sewer system.



Wipe out sewer clogs – be careful what you flush

Out of sight doesn't always mean out of mind. There is a growing national problem of increased sewer clogs and broken pumps and other large pieces of sewer machines and equipment. The culprit: pre-moistened towelettes, baby wipes, cleaning wipes, paper towels and feminine products. These products do not breakdown within the sewer system and can result in costly clogs, as well as sewer backups in your home. Please be mindful of what is flushed down the toilet, the unseen damage can result in millions of dollars in repair work or replacement, not to mention possibly affecting service delivery.

Did you know...

That the department has a new website dedicated to updating the public about the Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan? It has the facts and figures relating to how we will be investing for our future by improving our infrastructure because – our water is worth it. For more information, go to <http://www.miamidade.gov/water/improvements/home.html#NaN>

Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department to change water chlorination method for two-week period

The Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD) will change its method of chlorination at each of its regional water treatment facilities for two weeks, beginning Monday, Nov. 4th and ending Sunday, Nov. 17th. Specifically, free chlorine, instead of the standard combined chlorine (chloramine) will be used during the treatment process.

In a partnership with the Miami-Dade County Department of Health and the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER), WASD annually uses this free-chlorine treatment. This routine procedure is regularly scheduled each year, as free chlorine is considered an effective method of cleansing water distribution systems.

County residents may experience some chlorine smell and/or taste in their water during this short-term changeover. This is normal as free chlorine has a slightly different taste and smell than combined chlorine. The temporary change does not cause adverse health effects and is a necessary part of WASD's ongoing efforts to provide safe, potable drinking water to Miami-Dade County residents.



Avoid costly repair bills, “Can the Grease” this holiday season!

WASD and the Regulatory and Economic Resources Department (RER) would like to remind you this holiday season not to dump cooking grease or oil down your kitchen drain. In doing so, you'll help protect the environment and avoid a potentially costly repair bill.



Grease and oil poured into a kitchen or other drain, even a toilet, can harden inside your home's plumbing pipes. This can lead to a clog and sewage backing up into your home -something nobody wants at any time, let alone during the holidays.

To avoid this, don't empty oil or grease into your kitchen sink, even if you have a waste disposal system. Instead, pour your used grease and oil into a metal can or a heat resistant oven bag, let it cool a few minutes, and then throw it in the trash. To further reduce the amount of grease that enters your home's pipes, be sure to scrape or wipe as much food as possible off dishes and pans before putting them to wash in the sink or dishwasher.

For more information on how you can “Can the Grease,” visit us at www.miamidade.gov/water.